

# TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

May 19, 2014  
Meeting Minutes Draft

## Members Attending:

Name		Representation
Sharon Anderson	E	Cooperative Extension
John Andersson	P	At-Large
Fay Benson	P	Agriculture
Chris Bordlemay	P	Water Purveyor
Ed Bugliosi	E	USGS <i>ex officio</i>
Liz Cameron	E	T C Environmental Health
Sarah Dwyer	P	Business/Industry
Bill George	P	Municipal
Barry Goodrich	P	Watershed Organization
Roxy Johnston	E	At-Large
Joan Jurkowich	P	TC Planning
Dan Karig	P	Recreation
Dooley Kiefer	P	Legislature Liaison
Darby Kiley	E	Municipal

Name		Representation
Lynn Leopold	P	Municipal
Jim McGarry	P	EMC Liaison
Jon Negley	A	Soil & Water
Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Elaine Quaroni	P	At-Large
Marjory Rinaldo-Lee	P	Environment
Jose Lozano	P	Associate Member
Scott Carpenter	A	Associate Member
John Mawdsley	P	Associate Member
Todd Miller	E	Associate Member
Steve Penningroth	A	Associate Member
Mary Shelley	P	Associate Member
Tom Vawter	A	Associate Member
Linda Wagenet	A	Associate Member
Jennifer Turner	P	TC Planning

**Guests:** James Balyszak, Hydrilla Program Manager, Leanne Hill, IAWWTF, Fred Bonn, FLSP

Chairman Frank Proto called the meeting to order at approximately 4:19 PM.

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – Invitation to IAWWTF was added to the Agenda under Announcements. **MOVED** by Jim McGarry, seconded by Barry Goodrich, to approve the minutes from April 21, 2014 with changes to lines 45 changing “by” to “from”, adding “public” before “funding” on line 70 and line 73 changing “streams” to “aquifer”. Changes on line 98 and 99, under Chair & Staff Reports would remove “suggested” to replace with “could be used to support the idea” and removing “it was sent on behalf of” to replace with, “she expressed concern that the idea could be attributed to the WRC”. The motion passed by the unanimous vote of the members present. Final minutes are available on the WRC website: <http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/planning/committees/wrc/wrcagenda-minutes>

**Update of NY State Department of Parks** – Fred Bonn, Regional Director of Finger Lakes Parks Department, reported that the upper gorge at Treman Trail is still under construction but may be open for the Memorial Day Weekend. He mentioned the invasive species project using \$60,000 of NYS Parks funding. The efforts relating to the Water quality issues in Enfield and Buttermilk Creeks are one of focuses of the Department of Parks. He went on to note that when rain reaches 7/10 of an inch or more water quality testing becomes mandatory and a high bacteria count of E-Coli will cause those swimming area’s to close. An update of the master plan of Alan Treman Marina is near completion. It will include an installation of a solar array which will be the 1<sup>st</sup> in New York State Parks. The severe winter has not caused the deer ticks to

decline but instead has created a super deer tick. Deer management has implemented deer harvesting programs where hunting seasons are extended to land adjacent to Treman and Buttermilk Parks for bow-hunting. A partnership with the Village of Trumansburg will allow them to take over the State Parks water system with the installation of 3 new wells at the north and south points of Taughannock Falls. Black Diamond Trail is in the process of being completed by November of 2014, with the slight possibility of completion in early 2015. The overlook at Taughannock Park is another project that will go under construction. Construction will include the asphalt removal by the staircase, storm water remediation, landscaping with native plants and a new 3-season comfort station. Handouts of the Taughannock Falls concert series schedules and Empire State Passport applications were passed around.

**Hydrilla Update – Hydrilla Update** – James Balyszak reported that the monthly Outreach, statewide conference call and Taskforce meetings took place last week. The Hydrilla Task Force Management Committee has requested updated treatment proposals from Allied Biological and SePRO. The finalized version of the Aquathol-K treatments for Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek have been received and approved by the TCSWCD. The proposal from SePRO had a number of issues and it has been decided that the plan needs to be updated and in line with what the Task Force Management Committee has decided for the year. Treatments for the season would include an initial treatment with a contact herbicide and in 4-6 weeks; sonar treatment would follow. Pellet treatments will take place monthly in July, August, and September for Stewart Park Pond, Golf Course Lagoon, Fall Creek backwater area, and small feeder stream to Stewart Park Pond. Bob Johnson has been conducting his tuber monitoring in the Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek. He has doubled the amount of samples since last year from 22 to 44 samples per monitoring location, and has noticed the declining numbers of tubers. The Finger Lakes Institute is planning on launching a small scale program in place of Boat Launch Steward program that would involve a few boat stewards that would move around the region in areas of high concern. Due to the issues that business owners had last year during the 24 closure for treatments, discussions with Fred Bonn and Josh Teeter have occurred proposing alternate business sites as a possible resolution. ▪ A question on how the cold winter affected the Hydrilla was asked by Chris Bordlemay in which James Balyszak explained that 20-25% of the tubers that were exposed are not viable. He added that 70-75% of the tubers that were exposed survived and continued to germinate. ▪ Frank Proto reported that assemblywoman Barbara Lifton is sponsoring a bill on invasive species which will also cover Hydrilla. Senator O'Mara is introducing a similar bill in the senate. Barbara Lifton has asked that the Water Resources Council review the bill and make comments. Frank suggested that the Water Resources Council submit comments. Frank Proto suggested that members look into what the bill is proposing and asked that James Balyszak forward the information to all members. Bill information is as follows: Senate Bill 7273 (O'Mara); Assembly Bill 9619 (Lifton)

Marjorie Rinaldo-Lee located the invasive species bill introduced by Barbara Lifton on the website [www.assembly.state.ny.us](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us).

Legislative Bill: AO9619 (comments should be directed to the Environmental Conservation Committee)  
Companion Bill: SO7273

Frank Proto suggested the submission of comments be discussed at the meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Committee Reports - Executive Committee** – The Executive Committee did not meet. Meetings will be held on an as needed basis. **Grants Committee** – Jose Lozano reported on the Farmland Protection Initiative which has been funded for \$20.5 million. The eligible entities are municipalities, counties, and the Soil and Water Conservation District Office. There is funding under the New York State Environmental Protection Fund which could fund the TMDL program and Cayuga Lake which will potentially allow for more work on the inlet. Funding for \$1.3 Million for the Finger Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance was also awarded. In closing, Jose mentioned that the water craft stewards' response team at William Smith College was

83 awarded \$161,000. ▪ Frank Proto suggested that the Grants Committee follow up to find out what the correct  
84 entity would be to apply for the grants. (See attached Grants Committee report)  
85

86 Nominating Committee – Joan Jurkowich reported that the Nominating Committee met and discussed filling  
87 the vacancy of the At-Large seat. Other discussions focused on putting in efforts to fill the ex-officio seats  
88 and new outreach efforts in generating application submissions for the Water Resources Council. Recreation  
89 – Lynn Leopold reported that the boating and paddling brochure is in the revision process and that their  
90 committee will follow up with Tompkins County Planning Department when it is ready to print in order to  
91 go through the county procurement process. Recreation Committee will continue to meet on an as needed  
92 basis. Streams Committee – Dan Karig reported that the last Streams Committee meeting focused on the  
93 George Fowler pipeline crossing presentation. He noted the different kinds of pipelines that potentially cross  
94 in Tompkins County as sewage, gas and water-line crossings. Concerns over the Six Mile Creek’s required  
95 depth to carry the 100 year event were noted. A suggestion to find out what the permit requires and suggest  
96 to the city and DEC on how Six Mile Creek should be maintained will be in preparation for the next Streams  
97 Committee meeting. Dooley Kiefer suggested that the Streams Committee prepare an inventory of streams  
98 where micro-hydro would be possible. Frank Proto asked Dan Karig to have a report on the Flood Hazard  
99 Mitigation grants prepared for the next meeting. Wetlands Committee – Darby Kiley reported that there was  
100 a brief Wetlands Committee meeting. A request was made for Nick Hollingshead to present at the Water  
101 Resources Committee meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup> regarding the mapping of the Town of Dryden. Applications to  
102 request funding from the Parks Foundation are in the process. The Wetlands Committee may request a letter  
103 of support from the Water Resources Council. Aquifer Committee – Dan Karig reported that the arsenic  
104 pamphlet is being worked on. Education Committee – Lynn Leopold reported that the Education Committee  
105 met last Tuesday. Discussions centered on Hydrilla outreach. A new invasive species brochure was handed  
106 out at the Education Committee meeting for distribution to community members and different homeowners  
107 groups. An invasive species and clean boating practice pamphlet will be handed out to anyone launching a  
108 boat or equipment at the marina.  
109

110 **Chair & Staff Reports** – Frank Proto - mentioned concern over the stream gauges and federal funding.  
111 Lynn Szabo generated a list of all the gauges in the county that have largely received funding from USGS.  
112 Frank will be drafting another letter in support of keeping the funding for the stream gauges. He noted the  
113 public hearing for the storm-water annual report was rescheduled for the meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Water  
114 Resources Council 2013 annual report is in the final stages and will be available to all members in the near  
115 future. Joan Jurkowich – reported that the budgets for 2015 are due July 18<sup>th</sup>. County staff are required to  
116 report if grant funds were applied for to their program committee.  
117

118 **Invitation to the IAWWTF** – Jose Lozano invited the members of the Water Resources Committee to a tour  
119 of the Ithaca Area Waste Water Treatment Facility. He noted the major improvements that have been  
120 completed at the facility. Their facility now has the ability to divert almost all food waste of the county to  
121 anaerobic digestion. He projects that food wastes will be processed at over 750 tons per year. Jose  
122 recommended the tour of the facility take place on Wednesday or Thursday. Members discussed the  
123 possibility of having the tour and Water Resources Council meeting at the Ithaca Area Waste Water Facility.  
124

125 **Announcements** - James Balyszak - Noted that DEC Lampricide treatments will occur in the Inlet in the  
126 beginning of June. Joan Jurkowich – Announced that the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan is in the  
127 process of being updated. On June 19<sup>th</sup> a meeting will be held in the afternoon in the Borg Warner room; an  
128 evening meeting will take place at GIAC. Meetings will also be held at various locations in the county the  
129 week of June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Dooley Kiefer – Noted the Ithaca Journal’s watch report claims that the SPEDES permits  
130 are not being enforced and recommended that the Water Resources Council look into it. As members views  
131 of the enforcement differed, Frank Proto suggested that the article in the Ithaca Journal be brought for  
132 discussion at the next meeting.  
133

134 Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:11 PM.

135 Respectfully submitted,  
136 Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant  
137 Tompkins County Planning Department  
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139 Adopted by the Council on  
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